

URGING CAUTION ON FURTHER AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN CO- LOMBIA

(Mr. WICKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, this is the day! March 29, 2000, is the day that, unless something changes, this House of Representatives will decide to become involved in a lengthy and expensive military action in the country of Colombia.

There are a lot of questions that we do not know about plan Colombia, but we do know this, that at best it will take us 6 years to do the job, and probably twice that length. It will involve us in supporting a military action against guerillas on the left and narco terrorists on the right. Also, it will cost billions and billions of dollars, all without a full hearing and all without a full national debate.

This should not be a partisan issue, Mr. Speaker. Today I will vote for the Obey amendment which will say, at least let's put the brakes on \$500 million of this appropriation until we know what we are doing. We ought to be fully informed, and the American people ought to be fully informed, before we embark on a course of action which will last for decades and cost billions of American dollars with doubtful results.

CONGRESS MUST PASS SENSIBLE GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the passage of sensible gun safety legislation. These laws would help bring an end to the many unnecessary deaths occurring at the hands of our children and upon our children.

We promised the American people commonsense gun control. We have not delivered on that promise. In fact, we have gone in the other direction, engaging in a war of words only. Now the Congress must act responsibly and at least insist that the conferees to the juvenile justice bill meet immediately.

In my district in Northern California, the Oakland City Council has taken a strong stance on gun safety. They are putting human lives first by prohibiting the sale of compact handguns, penalizing firearms straw sales, and prohibiting people under the age of 18 from entering establishments that display firearms.

Yet here in Congress we will not even take the minimum steps, such as child safety trigger locks, to ensure the safety of our children. We can no longer afford to play partisan politics while so many children's lives remain at stake. We must pass gun safety legislation,

and demand that the conferees to the juvenile justice bill meet immediately.

LET US PASS H.R. 7 AND PROVIDE AMERICAN CHILDREN A GOOD BASIC EDUCATION

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the airplane, the theory of relativity, the polio vaccine, Mr. Speaker, all of these discoveries occurred during the 20th century, and they have changed our society. None of these extraordinary accomplishments would have been possible without a basic education.

Yet, as we begin a new century, American children striving to achieve great things already start at a disadvantage. Our Nation's education system ranks well below other industrialized nations. In fact, in math and science, our 12th graders rank among the lowest in the world.

In a nation as great as America, there is no excuse for this. American children deserve more. That is why I support H.R. 7, legislation that allows family to set aside money tax-free for proven education improvements such as tutors, computers, and books. Fifty-two million families of school-age children, 76 percent of whom attend public schools, would benefit from this bill. It is time we prepared our children to succeed in the 21st century. Let us pass H.R. 7.

MEMBERS SHOULD SUPPORT AMENDMENT TO SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL TO AD- DRESS GROUND FISHING DIS- ASTER FOR WEST COAST FAMI- LIES

(Mr. WU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, the House today will take up a supplemental appropriations bill which shows tremendous disrespect for hard-working rural coastal community families on the West Coast of the United States. There is a groundfish disaster occurring on the West Coast because a Federal agency has basically shut down groundfishing on the West Coast, causing several thousand families hardship.

There were funds in this bill which have been removed, and despite a bipartisan amendment proposed to restore those funds sponsored by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and I, by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. KUYKENDALL), this amendment was not made in order.

I intend to bring this amendment to the floor of the House today. I ask the support of my fellow Members to ad-

dress this groundfish disaster that is drastically affecting West Coast hard-working rural community fishing families. It is a commonsense bipartisan proposal to address a true emergency that is occurring today.

UNNECESSARY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND UNWISE MILITARY ADVENTURISM IN CO- LOMBIA

(Mr. PAUL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the current budget this year authorizes an expenditure of \$1.789 trillion. We would think that would be enough. The President has asked for an additional \$4 billion. After the House leadership thought about this, they decided to give him \$9 billion.

Quite frankly, I think there is enough waste and fraud in the current budget that we could find the \$4 billion if this expenditure were necessary. If we ever considered cutting back on some unconstitutional spending, we would have plenty of funds to take care of additional expenditures and have a lot left over.

But we should be very cautious about what we are doing today by expanding our involvement in Colombia. We are now moving into Colombia and spending a lot of money and expanding our war in this area. We should not be spending our money on military adventurism. We should be taking this money and spending it to build up our military defenses. We should be using this money to pay our military personnel more money, give them better housing and better education and better medical care.

What we are doing today, if we pass this bill, is we are going to move into another area of the world where we have no constitutional interest.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NUSSLE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 356, nays 47,